

Hard To Pick Democrats For Places On Committee

Fifty Men Are Aspirants for
Membership of Ways
and Means

JOHN WALTER SMITH IS
NEW LEADER FOR PARTY

Maryland Senator Is Already Picked
Out as National Chairman No
Matter Who May Be Can-
didate for President

BY WATTESON STEALEY

Washington, December 18.—(Special.)—Democratic congressmen are discussing with the utmost interest the forthcoming caucus and the personnel of the ways and means committee, which will initiate the work of reducing the tariff. As added importance has been injected into the matter by the belief that the democrats may finally decide to place in the hands of the ways and means committee the selection of all the House committees with the provision that no member of the committee may hold a chairmanship. This provision is advocated to prevent the committee from doling out chairmanships to its own several members.

The great influence which the committee will wield, even if confined to the tariff, has caused already more electioneering than has been witnessed in Washington in many a day. There are fully 50 members mentioned for the 11 places under prospective Chairman Underwood of Alabama, and the contest has even extended into some of the state delegations.

In North Carolina Representative Pohl, a member of the present committee, will be opposed for reassignment by Representative Kitchin. Mr. Pohl split with his party on the lumber and other schedules. The Texas delegation, which is always in a ferment over something or other, usually Senator Bailey, is as yet unable to agree enthusiastically on the selection of Representative Randall, a member of the present committee. In Missouri Representative Shackelford wants to go on the committee. Representative Lloyd, the chairman of the democratic congressional committee, is being boosted for the place.

The Missouri delegation is said to favor Mr. Lloyd's selection, especially in view of the fact that he conducted a winning campaign and is deserving of the best the party has in the locker. Other instances of party rivalry might be mentioned, but these are sufficient to show that places on the big committee will go to a-begging.

Geography will play no small part in the selection of the committee. It is the view of most of the members that the states north of the Ohio river line extended east should have at least five of the twelve places. Indiana is said to be decided upon the candidacy of Representative Dixon, Illinois upon Representative Rainey and Pennsylvania upon Representative Palmer. In Ohio both Representative Denver and Representative Cox are being talked of by their colleagues. In New York Representative Burton Harrison, who is on the present committee, will seek his state's endorsement. It is thought there will be no difficulty over the election of Representative O'Connell of Kentucky, and in case the caucus decides to take a Tennesseean, Representative Hull is regarded as an excellent material.

Many other names are being brought forward, but those mentioned above are generally regarded as the pick of the democratic side from the standpoint of ability and general political and geographical considerations.

It is taken as a matter of course that any committee which the caucus names will be very unsatisfactory to the republican press of the country. These guides of democracy have already found that there is a scheme on foot to name a "state" committee consisting of dependable democrats instead of democrats with republican proclivities. The presumption naturally is that Mr. Clark's friends will be in the minority and that Mr. Clark himself would be beaten for the speakership. The fact, however, that the 27 democrats may vote as they please effects a change of any "state" argument.

New Leader of Men
John Walter Smith, the astute Maryland senator, to whose political acumen is attributed the rebalancing of the Maryland democracy, is being touted here for the chairmanship of the democratic national committee, and as such the directing force in the 1912 campaign.

Those behind the Smith movement, and there seem to be a good many of them, claim that the Maryland senator is the best organizer in the country and fully measure up to the request of Tom Taggart of Indiana. Belmont was very anxious for the place and Parker, feeling under great obligations to him, was inclined to grant the request. The other members of the national committee wouldn't hear of it.

Those who are talking Smith say that Governor Wilson, Governor Marshall, Governor Harmon, or Speaker Clark is made the standard-bearer it is all the same that the senator is the man to put him in the White House when the smoke of the convention battle blows away.

Vacancy in Statuary Hall
Reports from Alabama are to the effect that at the forthcoming session of the legislature an attempt will be made to rescind the action of the legislature by whose vote the statue of J. L. M. Curry was placed in Statuary Hall. The statue has never been formally accepted by Congress. Such acceptance, however, is only customary, and is not required by law, the statue of General Lee, Father Marquette and several others being in the same predicament.

The claim is made by some Alabamians that Curry is not a typical representative of the state, that the matter was act-

CONGRESS WILL TAKE HOLIDAY

Only Three More Days of
Work Before Christmas

PUBLIC IS NOT INTERESTED

Congressional Proceedings Have At-
tracted Few People to the Gal-
leries During the Past
Two Weeks

Washington, December 18.—Congress is expected to adjourn Wednesday for the holiday recess and not to resume business until January 5. The resolution which passed the House probably will be brought up in the Senate tomorrow. No objection to the programme has appeared, as it is practically certain that a half dozen of the big supply bills will be out of the way by Wednesday night.

Business before both branches of Congress thus far has not stimulated much public interest and seats in the galleries have been vacant. The omnibus claims bill in the Senate has failed to attract crowds and the appropriation bills in the House proved no better magnet.

Outside of the claims bill there has been no business before the Senate except the Cummings resolution to change the rules of the Senate and House so as to facilitate piecemeal revision of the tariff. Several speeches on this subject have been made and the indications are that the resolution will be sent to the Senate rules committee before the recess.

The rules committee is generally believed to be opposed to the adoption of any measure which would undertake to deal with the rules of the House. The indications are that some measure may be reported out which would give the Senate opportunity of voting on some form of cloture for itself without invading the prerogatives of the House.

The question of legislation to create a permanent tariff commission is attracting far more attention in the House than in the Senate, where there has been manifested a disposition to await the outcome of conferences being held by Representative Longworth of Ohio, Good of Iowa and Lenroot of Wisconsin. Whether these members are able to harmonize their differences has not been made clear, but it is said that in the House as a whole there is sentiment generally for enlargement for the tariff board and making its existence continue for at least six years. Some members favor making the life of the commission ten years and still others would go as high as twenty years.

Most serious of all of the questions involved is that of giving to the commission the power to demand books and papers of corporations. Many members favor having the commission call for such documents where they have been refused to be made. In the event of refusal to make reports to Congress with a view to separate action in each case.

The report of the Ballinger-Pinchot investigation is still lumbering in the House committee on agriculture. Minority members of the investigating committee are threatening to demand a report from the committee on agriculture. The majority and minority views might be had in the House, but no step in that direction has been taken. There appears to be little prospect of action in the Senate.

It is likely the investigation of Indian contracts, which has been at a standstill several weeks, will be resumed during the holiday recess. The Senate committee appointed to investigate similar charges has never met. Senator Jones, chairman of the Senate committee, will make a report showing that the House committee covered the subject in a manner that made a second investigation unnecessary. It is understood his report will include a statement that a probe by the Senate would have covered the same ground as that made by the House.

ROY GARNER WILL HELP REED IN BASEBALL

Mobile, December 18.—(Special.)—Roy Garner, city editor of the Mobile Register, has resigned and will leave next Tuesday for Great Falls, Mont., where he will join George M. Reed, formerly manager of the Mobile club in the Southern league, and enter actively into the work of getting ready a team to represent Great Falls in the new Union league next season. The Great Falls franchise is owned by Reed and Garner, the former having secured it at a meeting of the organizers of the new association two weeks ago.

Death From Burns
Pittsburg, December 18.—Stockdale Snyder, aged 82, of Wilson station, near here, was using a camp made of inflammable material while sitting near a gas grate last night, when it caught fire and communicated the flames to his hair and clothing, burning him so severely that he died a few hours later.

ed upon hastily by the legislature and influenced in no small degree by the fact that Curry's widow paid for the statue instead of the expense being borne by the state.

A statue of George Smith Houston, governor, members of the House and senator, a prominent figure of the ante-bellum and reconstruction era, is advocated by many for the Curry place in the hall.

Alabama has only one statue in the hall, that of Curry. It is said that the one remaining vacancy will be filled by the legislature appropriating for a statue of John Tyler Morgan, Alabama's "great old man." It is reported that Governor-elect O'Neal will recommend this in his message to the legislature.



WAR UPON REDMOND FAILS OF PURPOSE

London, December 18.—One feature of the election has been the comparative failure of the Redmondites in almost every constituency. Although they had more than a score of candidates, their strength in the new parliament has not been increased. O'Brien himself was a candidate in three constituencies, but was elected in only one, Cork City, while Timothy Healey, his ablest lieutenant, is without a seat.

In an interview Mr. O'Brien affected no surprise at not doing better. He said the utmost he had hoped for was the addition of two or three new seats.

"In my opinion," said Mr. O'Brien, "the success of the Redmondites is almost entirely due to the attitude of the English unionist press, which daily celebrated his glories as the dictator of England. This has placed him on a tremendous pedestal in Ireland, played his game much more effectively than his own papers did."

In O'Brien's opinion the only possible issue of the present imbroglio will be the resumption of the veto conference on a broader basis. He denied the rumors of his retirement to private life, and declared his intention to move for a parliamentary inquiry into the intrigues of his opponents with Dublin castle.

SMALL ISLAND IS SUNK BY QUAKE

New Orleans, December 18.—A special dispatch to the Times-Democrat from Port Limon, Costa Rica, says that a small island off the coast of San Salvador disappeared last Thursday following a series of earth shocks and it is believed that 17 families, or about 90 persons, lost their lives.

The dispatch adds that San Salvador was repeatedly shaken by earthquakes last week and the series of Thursday night was especially severe.

"The people on the little island, Hopango, were observed giving signals of distress late Thursday afternoon," says the dispatch, "but it was out of the question at that hour, because of the excitable condition of the people on the Calvadorean shore, to send them relief. The earth shocks continued till past midnight Thursday and Friday morning the island had entirely disappeared."

Loss on Island Is Heavy
New York, December 18.—Reports received here tonight place the scene of the disaster on a small island in the Dapong lagoon, southeast of San Salvador. It is asserted that about 170 of the inhabitants were killed. The island is said to have sunk following a series of earthquake shocks last Saturday.

There is no confirmation of the rumor.

1000 CATS WANTED
Sharon, Pa., December 18.—Squire S. S. Gilbert, of this place has received a request from the state of Washington for 1000 cats. The request is made in a letter from Albert J. Randall, formerly of Sharon, on, but now a resident of Okanogan county, in the western state. He writes that he will visit Pennsylvania within a month to pick up all the stray cats that can be delivered to him, for which he is willing to pay a fair price. Mr. Randall has associated with him a number of property owners determined to rid Okanogan county of gophers that destroy gardens and farm lands in that section of the state. Five thousand cats are to be shipped to Washington by April 1.

HITCHCOCK GETTING READY FOR POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS

Washington, December 18.—Postmaster General Hitchcock stated tonight that everything will be in readiness for the postal savings banks in the various states and territories to receive deposits on January 3, the first working day of the new year. The task of drawing up regulations, forms and instructions to postmasters and the general public, he announced, has progressed to such an extent as to reassure the beginning of operations at the experimental offices.

One experimental office will be opened in each state and territory with a view to making the first tests of the service as thorough as possible under the limited appropriations. The offices designated are all of the second class and in localities where the conditions are exceptionally favorable for the development of postal savings business. Several of the offices selected are in the communities inhabited by foreign born Americans, who are remitting annually considerable sums of money to their native countries by postal money orders.

During the past few days the postmasters at the 12 offices in the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Coast states have been in Washington at the request of the Postmaster General for a conference. While here these postmasters were thoroughly instructed as to how the new system should be put into operation and how the business should be conducted.

Within the next few days postmasters from the remaining 36 offices will come in Washington for a similar drilling. Among these offices are: Bessemer, Ala.; Stuttgart, Ark.; Key West, Fla.; Brunswick, Ga.; Middleboro, Ky.; New Iberia, La.; Gulfport, Miss.; Salisbury, N. C.; Glynco, Okla.; Newberry, S. C.; Johnson City, Tenn.; Clifton Forge, Va., and Grafton, W. Va.

**MEXICAN TROOPS
LOSE IN BATTLES**
El Paso, Tex., December 18.—Private telegrams received here tonight state that a column of federal troops under General Hernandez encountered a large body of insurgents 25 miles west of Chihuahua today, and that fighting has been in progress for several hours. Hernandez is declared to have left Chihuahua to take personal command of his troops. The report says the federal troops were being driven back. No details have been received and no estimate of the losses on either side can be made. It is said, however, that the insurgents are well armed and are pursuing guerrilla tactics, keeping well under cover in the rough mountainous country.

It is reported that the government has not succeeded in opening the Mexican Northwestern railroad, the troop trains sent west of Chihuahua Saturday being reported to be near La Junta.

Related reports of a skirmish between rurales under Colonel Jolitsky and insurgents near Chihuahua Saturday, giving details, although it is asserted that the rurales were routed.

**NEW MEXICO'S BASIC
LAWS CONDEMNED**
Santa Fe, N. M., December 18.—The democratic territorial convention adjourned today after adopting resolutions condemning the constitution drafted by the constitutional convention by a vote of 15 to 7.

Condemnation is made because the constitution fails to provide for the initiative, practical referendum, the recall and direct primary and that the salaries of state officials are extravagant.

The convention called on patriotic voters to defeat the constitution.

TODAY'S AGE-HERALD
1.—Hard to pick democrats for committee.
2.—Fight in Congress on parcels post.
3.—Congress will soon take a holiday.
4.—British aviator has narrow escape.
5.—Hitchcock getting ready for postal savings banks.
6.—Census figures do not please Texans.
7.—Rules for Congress will stand long.
8.—Humphries will appeal his case.
9.—Farming methods greatly improved.
10.—Drew endorsed by Fort Payne people.
11.—Editorial comment.
12.—C. M. Hubbard talks on charity work.
13.—Citizens discuss needs of Birmingham.
14.—John Clinton dies with life secret.
15.—Georgia towns are after the capital.
16.—Bullish outlook in cotton world.
17.—Demand for bonds shows increase.
18.—Foreman Dyer captures prize.
19.—Mass in memorial largely attended.
20.—Wild rumors about Mexican battles.
21.—Suspect move of former gunboat.
22.—Chattanooga will have good players.
23.—Not an easy matter to call upon Taft.
24.—Attention turned to peanut raising.

British Aviator Misses Death In Airship Wreck

FIGHT TO OCCUR
ON PARCELS POST

Taft and Hitchcock Favor Es-
tablishing the System

CONGRESS WILL TAKE IT UP

Two Bills to Establish Parcels Post
System Are Before Congress and
Its Opponents Will Fight
It Very Hard

Washington, December 18.—(Special.) A parcels post will be one of the most important subjects that the present Congress will have to deal with, and the champions of this movement feel confident that some definite steps will be taken toward the establishment of this system before Congress adjourns next March.

The fact that both President Taft, in his annual message, and Postmaster General Hitchcock in his annual report, have recommended the rural parcels post, has greatly strengthened their hopes, and they believe that if once a system is established for the rural districts it will only be a short time before it is made general.

James L. Crowles, founder and secretary of the Postal Progress league, says that a vigorous campaign will be made this year in Washington to bring about the enactment of some parcels post legislation.

"Should we fail," he continued, "we shall urge the President to call a special session of the Sixty-second Congress to take up this matter."

Every effort is being made by the members of our league throughout the country to bring about the election of senators pledged to a parcels post system. We feel confident that a majority of the House members are in favor of such legislation, and now is our time to make sure of the Senate.

"A mass meeting is to be held in Cooper Union, New York, on December 29, which will be addressed by a number of prominent business men, and this will be followed by our annual convention in February."

"At present there are two bills before Congress providing for a parcels post system—the Bennett bill and the Sulzer bill. Our league favors the Sulzer bill, because it specifies the limit on packages. If this bill is made a law it will save the people of the country \$20,000,000 a year that they are now paying to the express companies in excessive rates, and convert the annual deficit of the postoffice department into a handsome profit."

Opposition Is Strong
Although the sentiment in the House seems generally favorable to the parcels post, there is a strong factor opposed to it. This is the House committee on postoffices and postroads.

Representative Weeks of Massachusetts, the chairman of this body, has expressed himself very forcibly as opposed to any legislation of this kind, and he apparently has the support of the majority of the committee. With the end of the session, however, ten of these lose their seats in the House, and there will be a new committee with a new chairman when the Sixty-second Congress opens.

Arguments for and against a parcels post are many, and have been reiterated time and again, and it is safe to say that they will be presented in amplified form at this session.

Representative Sulzer's bill is as follows:

Sulzer's Postal Bill
"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in this present Congress, That the common weight limit of the domestic postal service of the United States is hereby increased to 11 pounds, the common limit of the Universal Postal Union, and that in the general business of the postoffice the 1 cent an ounce rate on general merchandise—fourth-class mail matter—be, and is hereby, reduced to the third-class rate, per cent for each 2 ounces or fraction thereof."

"Sec. 2. That the rate on local letters or sealed parcels posted for delivery within the free-delivery service is hereby determined at 2 cents on parcels up to 4 ounces, 1 cent on each additional 2 ounces; at non-delivery offices, 1 cent for each 2 ounces."

"Sec. 3. That all mail matter collected and delivered within the different rural routes of the United States is hereby determined to be in one class, with rates, door to door, between the different houses and places of business, and the postoffice or postoffices on each route, as follows: On parcels up to one twenty-fourth of a cubic foot, or 1 by 12 inches in dimensions and up to one pound in weight, 1 cent; on larger parcels up to one-half of a cubic foot, or 8 by 12 by 12 inches in dimensions and up to 11 pounds in weight, 5 cents; on larger parcels up to 1 cubic foot, or 6 by 12 by 24 inches in dimensions and up to 25 pounds in weight, 10 cents. No parcels shall be over 4 feet in length, and in no case shall a carrier be obliged to transport a load of over 600 pounds."

"Sec. 4. That on all unregistered prepaid mail matter without declared value an indemnity up to \$10 shall be paid by the postoffice department for such actual loss or damage as may occur through the fault of the postal service, and this with out extra charge. Certificates of posting shall be provided on demand."

On registered parcels of declared value, and on which the fee for registration, insurance and postage has been paid, the postoffice department shall pay the full value of any direct loss or damage that may occur through the fault of the postal service. The fees for insurance and registration shall be as follows: For registration and insurance up to \$50, 10 cents; for each additional \$50, 2 cents. No claim for compensation will be admitted if not presented within one year after the parcel is posted."

"Sec. 5. That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed."

"Sec. 6. That this act shall take effect six months from and after the date of approval thereof."

Taft's Recommendation
Of course, this is not in accordance with the recommendation of the President, he suggests only a parcels post, or rural sections, while Mr. Sulzer's bill provides for a general system.

Some parcels post enthusiasts oppose the bill.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

Grahame-White Receives Bad
Cuts on His Face In
Accident

MEMPHIS AVIATION MEET
IS LONGEST ON RECORD

Henry Farman Makes Long Flight In
France and Would Have Broken
World's Record But He Came
Down Too Soon

Dover, England, December 18.—Claude Grahame-White, the English aviator, who recently won the international aviation cup at Belmont park, had a narrow escape from serious injury today when his machine was wrecked and he was badly cut about the face.

A large number of aviators have been waiting here for the last fortnight to compete for the prize of \$20,000 offered by Baron de Forest for the longest flight across the English channel in 1910, the flight to be made by an Englishman in an English built machine. Grahame-White this morning ascended for a trial flight in a strong wind. His machine began to rock and he was unable to restore its equilibrium. It turned over, plunged to the ground and was completely wrecked.

The aviator fortunately, fell a little to one side. It was thought at first he had suffered concussion of the brain, as he was unconscious, but as soon recovered and it was found that he had received nothing more than some cuts about the face. It is expected he will be about again within a week. He has ordered another biplane of the Wright type from Bristol and will make another attempt to win the prize.

A second competitor for the prize, Sopwith, fared better than White. He left East Church, Sheppey island, at 8:15 o'clock in the morning, crossed from Dover to Calais and descended at Beaumont, Belgium, a distance of 174 miles.

In his trial flight Grahame-White had descended to within 100 feet of the ground when his machine began to waver. His actual fall probably did not exceed 70 feet.

Sopwith completed his flight of 174 miles just under three and one-half hours. This is the first time that a British made aeroplane has crossed the channel, and in addition, it is a record flight for distance under the conditions prevailing. No tugs or other craft followed the aeroplane on its flight from Dover to Calais and no other precautions were taken against accidents.

Memphis Aviation Meet Ends
Memphis, December 18.—After the longest aerial tournament so far in the history of aviation, Memphis and the airman parted company tonight. The meeting originally planned for a week began December 1. Several extensions postponed the conclusion until this afternoon.

Today's programme was an aerial review. Fifty dips and spectacular glides with short cross-country flights and a general putting of the air craft through their paces furnished thrills in quantity. Moisant, Barrier and Simon in monoplanes, and several others in biplanes, participated in the concluding events.

The next stop of the aviators will be at Tupelo, Miss. Prizes aggregating \$5000 have been offered for a two day meet, tomorrow and Tuesday. New Orleans will follow with four days of flying, beginning on next Saturday.

Farman Makes Long Flight
Etampes, France, December 18.—Henry Farman, competing for the Michelin cup, today made a remarkable flight of eight hours and thirteen minutes. Owing to a fierce north wind, however, his progress was slow. He covered 1000 miles (287 miles), against 465, made by Maurice Tabuteau on October 28 in a similar competition.

Farman, deceived by the applause of the spectators, believed he had beaten the distance record and descended. He was greatly disappointed to find that he had not equalled the former record. Tabuteau occupied six hours in his flight for the Michelin cup, which is awarded annually to the aviator making the longest sustained flight in the year. A premium of \$5000 goes to the winner.

Mars Has Risky Glide
Fresno, Cal., December 18.—Hanging 400 feet in the air, while attempting to make an altitude record, J. C. (Bud) Mars, this afternoon found that his engine would not work. Despite precautions to keep the radiator from freezing, the cold was too great and Mars was forced to make the longest "spiral glide" of his life. Mars started down with a long spiral, half a mile in diameter, swinging wide over the fair grounds and grandstand. He alighted safely, but he was unbenumbed.

Glen Curtis, in a speedy trial, made five miles in five minutes, five seconds, flying above the mile track.

YOUNG MAN KILLED IN TROLLEY ACCIDENT

Eric, Pa., December 18.—Hurled 90 feet into a ravine late midnight when a trolley car struck their team, Paul H. Grubb, aged 19, was instantly killed, and Margaret Frye, aged 18, was seriously injured.

Seven young people were returning from a party when their wagon was caught on a bridge by the car. The five that escaped injury saved themselves by catching the guard rail as the wagon was turned over.

Grubb's back and shoulder were broken and he died an hour afterward.

Potash Question Discussed
Washington, December 18.—It was announced today by the state department that the chief topic of discussion at the prolonged special meeting of the cabinet Saturday night was the trade controversy between Germany and the United States growing out of Germany's tax on the production of potash. No decision was reached. It was reported, as to what course this country will pursue in further negotiations to settle the questions involved, and it was stated the matter is still under advisement.